

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A drilling fluid bucket comprising:

-a first half cylindrical member;

-a second half cylindrical member, and wherein said first half cylindrical member and said second half cylindrical member form a cylindrical member;

-a closing member operatively attached at a first end to said first half cylindrical member and operatively attached at a second end to said second half cylindrical member, wherein said closing member is pneumatically operated, wherein said closing member comprises: a first bracket attached to said first half cylindrical member; a second bracket attached to said second half cylindrical member; a pneumatically operated piston contained within a cylinder and wherein said cylinder is attached to said first bracket and said second bracket is attached to said piston;

-a latching member that latches said first half cylindrical member with said second half cylindrical member, wherein said latching member is a pneumatically operated piston contained within a cylinder attached to a first hook and a piston attached to a second hook, wherein said first and second hooks cooperate with a fastener to latch said first and said second half cylindrical members together.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The bucket of claim [[2]] 1 further comprising:
- an outlet for directing a drilling fluid from said drilling fluid bucket.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) The bucket of claim [[4]] 3 further comprising:
- a seal means positioned along a first face on said first half cylindrical member that cooperates with a sealing surface positioned along a second face on said second half cylindrical member.
6. (Original) The bucket of claim 5 wherein said seal means comprises a longitudinal seal strip inserted into a groove formed on said first face.
7. (Original) The bucket of claim 6 further comprising a seal lip positioned along the first half cylindrical member and covering said second half cylindrical member.
8. (Currently Amended) The bucket of claim 7 wherein the closing member comprises
~~further comprising:~~
- [[-]]a plurality of closing members operatively attached at a first end to said first half cylindrical member and operatively attached at a second end to said second half cylindrical member, wherein said closing members are pneumatically operated.

9. (Currently Amended) The bucket of claim 8 wherein the latching member comprises
~~further comprising: [-]~~ a plurality of latching members that locks said first half cylindrical
member and second half member together.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for preventing the spillage of a drilling fluid onto
a drilling rig floor, the apparatus comprising:

- a first sleeve;

- a second sleeve, and wherein said first sleeve and second sleeve form a cylindrical
member;

- a closing member operatively attached at a first end of said first sleeve and
operatively attached at a second end of said second sleeve, wherein said closing member is
pneumatically operated;

- a latching member that latches said first sleeve with said second sleeve, wherein
said latching member is a pneumatically operated piston contained within a cylinder, and
wherein said cylinder is attached to a first hook and said piston is attached to a second hook,
wherein said first hook and said second hook cooperate with a fastener to latch said first sleeve
and said second sleeve together.;

- a seal means positioned along a first face on said first sleeve that cooperates with a
sealing surface positioned along a second face on said second sleeve.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising:

- an outlet for directing the drilling fluid from the apparatus.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[12]]~~ 10 wherein said closing member comprises:

- a first bracket attached to said first sleeve;
- a second bracket attached to said second sleeve;
- a pneumatically operated piston contained within a cylinder and wherein said cylinder is attached to said first bracket and said second bracket is attached to said piston.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said seal means comprises a longitudinal seal strip inserted into a groove formed on said first face.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the closing member comprises further comprising: ~~[[-]]~~ a plurality of closing members operatively attached at a first end to said first sleeve and operatively attached at a second end to said second sleeve, wherein said closing members are pneumatically operated.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said latching member comprises:
-a plurality of latching members that latches said first sleeve and said second sleeve together.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising a seal lip positioned along the first sleeve and covering said second sleeve in order to prevent the drilling fluid within the

bucket from leaking.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said longitudinal seal strip and said sealing surface is constructed of an elastomer.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said longitudinal seal strip contains a head portion and wherein said sealing surface comprises a complimentary enlarged portion that receives said head portion to provide a seal.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein ~~said latching members each~~ of said latching members comprise:

- a cylinder having a pneumatically responsive rod therein;

- a first hook connected to a first end of said cylinder and wherein said first hook is pivotly attached to said second sleeve;

- a second hook connected to said rod and wherein said second hook is pivotly attached to said second sleeve;

- and wherein, as air pressure is supplied to said cylinder, said rod expands and causes pivoting of said first hook to engage a first shoulder on said second sleeve, and said cylinder causes pivoting of said second hook to engage a second shoulder on said second sleeve.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing spillage of a drilling fluid contained within a first and a second tubular onto a drilling rig floor, wherein said ~~first~~ first and second tubular are threadedly attached, the method comprising:

-providing a drilling fluid bucket, and wherein the bucket comprises: a first sleeve; a second sleeve, and wherein said first sleeve and said second sleeve form a cylindrical container; a closing member operatively attached at a first end to said first sleeve and operatively attached at a second end to said second sleeve, wherein said closing member is pneumatically operated; a pneumatically operated latching member that latches said first sleeve and second sleeve; a seal means positioned along a first face on said first sleeve that cooperates with a sealing face formed on said second sleeve;

-providing said first end of said second tubular within a rotary table on the drilling rig floor;

-surrounding said first and said second tubular with said bucket;

-activating said pneumatic closing member;

-pivoting said first sleeve and said second sleeve by activating said latching member, wherein said latching member contains a hook member, and engaging said hook member onto a shoulder on said cylindrical container so that the cylindrical container encapsulates said first tubular and said second tubular;

-forming a seal to keep the drilling fluid within the cylindrical container by compressing the first seal against the seal surface;

-disconnecting the first tubular and the second tubular;

-collecting the drilling fluid from said first tubular and said second tubular within said bucket;

-directing the drilling fluid from said bucket.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[22]] 21 wherein the bucket further comprises a seal lip along a hinge pivot seam of said cylindrical container, and wherein the step of forming a seal further comprising:

-sealing the hinge pivot seam with the seal lip.

24. (Canceled)

25. (New) A method of preventing spillage of a drilling fluid contained within a first and a second tubular onto a drilling rig floor, wherein said first and second tubular are threadedly attached, the method comprising:

-providing a drilling fluid bucket, and wherein the bucket comprises: a first sleeve; a second sleeve, and wherein said first sleeve and said second sleeve form a cylindrical container; a closing member operatively attached at a first end to said first sleeve and operatively attached at a second end to said second sleeve, wherein said closing member is pneumatically operated; a pneumatically operated latching member that latches said first sleeve and second sleeve, said latching member comprising a cylinder having a pneumatically responsive rod therein; a first hook connected to a first end of said cylinder and wherein said first hook is pivotly attached to said second sleeve; a second hook connected to said rod and wherein said second hook is pivotly attached to said second sleeve; a seal means positioned along a first face on said first sleeve that cooperates with a sealing face formed on said second sleeve;

-providing said first end of said second tubular within a rotary table on the drilling rig floor;

- surrounding said first and said second tubular with said bucket;
- activating said pneumatic closing member;
- pivoting said first sleeve and said second sleeve so that the cylindrical container encapsulates said first tubular and said second tubular, and wherein said step of pivoting said first and second sleeve comprises: activating said latching member; expanding said rod with an air pressure supplied to said cylinder, said rod expanding and causing the pivoting of said first hook to engage a first shoulder on said second sleeve; moving said cylinder with the air pressure which causes pivoting of said second hook to engage a second shoulder on said second sleeve so that the first and the second sleeves are latched together;
- forming a seal to keep the drilling fluid within the cylindrical container by compressing the first seal against the seal surface;
- disconnecting the first tubular and the second tubular;
- collecting the drilling fluid from said first tubular and said second tubular within said bucket;
- directing the drilling fluid from said bucket.